

From: Richard E Wallis
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 2:14am
Subject: Microsoft settlement

To the Honorable John Ashcroft, Attorney General

Dear Sir:

I have recently received a solicitation from Microsoft encouraging me to ask you and the Justice Department to wrap up the ongoing litigation. Their stipulation is that Microsoft has gone above and beyond what the courts have asked for and continuing the litigation would only hamper Microsoft's ability to innovate; and invigorate the American economy. Unfortunately, I disagree.

I do not oppose Microsoft's efforts to do business and to provide consumers with software packages for their computers. What I do oppose is Microsoft's apparent efforts to thwart the consumer's right to choose. Any consumer should have the right to decide what kind of operating system, Internet browser, office suite and email application they use. By wrapping its software applications together Microsoft limits a consumer's ability put together a software suite that is most comfortable for them. Ultimately, the best scenario I can think of is for various computer system manufacturers to offer consumers choices of software packages. Choices in operating systems like Windows, Linux, or even Unix; choices in Internet browsers like Netscape, Internet Explorer, or Opera; choices in office suites like Coral's Word Perfect or Microsoft's Word; or even in games. In summary, I would like to encourage the Justice Department pursue its case against Microsoft. The settlement should provide that Microsoft uncouple its operating system and applications.

Sincerely,
Richard E Wallis
Honolulu, Hawaii